

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 355

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor the Maryville Kiwanis Club and applaud its members' commitment to the Blount County Imagination Library.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those exemplary institutions that, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as estimable organizations that are dedicated to improving the quality of life of all people; and

WHEREAS, one such superlative organization is the Maryville Kiwanis Club, a local chapter of Kiwanis International, that has taken to heart the Kiwanis initiative of "Young Children: Priority One" to identify and address the greatest needs of its community's youngest members; and

WHEREAS, mindful that thousands of Tennessee children start kindergarten without ever having owned or perhaps even seeing a book and that 80% of brain development happens before age five, the Maryville Kiwanis Club wholeheartedly committed to working with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation to provide one age-appropriate book to any Blount County child under the age of five for free, regardless of income; and

WHEREAS, since its inception on October 14, 2005, the Blount County Imagination Library has provided access to one free, hardcover, age-appropriate book per child every single month to the more than 6,000 children under five who call Blount County home; and

WHEREAS, today the Maryville Kiwanis Club continues to go above and beyond the call of duty in its support for the Blount County Imagination Library, assisting with the registration of eligible children and raising funds for the program; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Maryville Kiwanis Club are confident that this powerful investment of time and resources in the youngest of our citizens will pay off exponentially in

increased educational preparedness and performance, and improved family literary rates for both Blount County and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2007, in honor of their extraordinary efforts, the Maryville Kiwanis Club will be recognized as a Champion of the Library at a gala event; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of this great State should honor and recognize the membership of the Maryville Kiwanis Club who have improved the quality of life for the children of Blount County; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and applaud the Maryville Kiwanis Club on their outstanding service to the children of Blount County and for rightfully being acknowledged as the "Champion of the Blount County Imagination Library" for their exemplary efforts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.